Literacy rate

†1987. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the national literacy rate which was 52.21 per cent in year 1991 registered an increase of just 13.17 per cent during the census of year 2001 showing national literacy rate only 65.38 per cent;

(b) if so, by when the country, with such slow rate of progress, would achieve the target of hundred per cent literacy, and

(c) whether Government propose to take any specific measures to bring the State with the least literacy rate at par with the national level indicating names of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per the final figures released by the 2001 Census the literacy rate in the country has increased from 52 2 per cent in 1991 to 64.8 per cent in 2001 registering an increase of 12 6 per cent. This is the highest decadal growth ever.

(b) The National Literacy Mission seeks to achieve a sustainable threshold literacy rate of 75 per cent by 2007

(c) The States of Andrha Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli have a literacy rate below the national average The universalisation of elementary education and eradication of adult illiteracy from the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country including these States In the elementary education sector, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been launched with a holistic and convergent approach to implement Universalisation of Elementary Education in a mission mode with the district focus The goals of SSA are -

- All Children in School, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

- All children complete eight years of elementary schooling 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) aims to provide functional literacy to non-literates in 15 — 35 age group. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas, particularly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand, to organize residual illiteracy projects in areas which have substantial number of illiterates and to set up continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life long learning to the neo-literates.

Fake universities

†1988. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that several fake universities are running in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such universities along with the estimated number of students studying there; and

(c) the reasons for which Government are unable to close such institutions by imposing a ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC) 18 fake Universities/Institutions, functioning in contravention of the UGC Act, 1956, have been identified in different parts of the country. A list of such Institutions is given to the Statement (*See* below). As regard number of students studying in these universities/ institutions, the UGC does not maintain such information

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi